



## Human Rights Commission Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022

**Time:** 8:00pm- 10:00pm

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-chairs Soneja and Carney, Commissioners Bauer, Brown, Horowitz, Jolin, Carey, Pusey, Beauchemin

Absent: Commissioners Grossman, Minton, Haynes, and Rogers

DEI Office - Jillian Harvey, Teresa Marzilli

APD representative: N/A

Community Members: Laurie Key, Christina Harrison, Anna Rosofsky, Rebecca Gruber

### Minutes

1. Review of May 2022 Meeting Minutes (2 min)
  - a. Abstentions by Commissioners Jolin, Soneja, Brown, and Carey
  - b. Approved by majority vote
2. Community Input (15 min)
  - a. none

3. Incidents and Complaints (15 min)
  - a. APD Updates
    - i. No updates on previous incidents
  - b. New Incidents
    - i. Trans flag vandalized at Church on 74 pleasant Ave. – assigned to Co-Chair Carney
    - ii. Gibbs school – report of swastika found on school grounds (desk in classroom)
  - c. Earlier incidents
    - i. Commissioner Brown working to connect with victim of hate speech from last month
4. DEI Update (Jillian Harvey 15 min)
  - a. Teresa Marzilli – New Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
  - b. DEI division will be putting together a Juneteenth brochure for educational purposes through social media outlets
  - c. Town Manager will be stepping down
    - i. Deputy Town Manager will be interim Town Manager for at least 6 months
    - ii. Town will not be actively searching given the demand in the surrounding neighborhoods
  - d. Jillian to speak at district attorneys' event about creation of DEI municipal guide
    - i. Event will occur on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
5. Working Groups Update (20 min)
  - a. Schools & Education
    - i. Discussed gun violence
      1. APS position on gun violence in schools
        - a. Moms Demand Action in Arlington is moving forward with an effort to educate about safe storage
    - ii. Heterogeneous grouping
      1. Discussed school committee member hesitation to support the pilot program
    - iii. School calendar discussion
      1. Discussion about the addition of Ramadan as an entire month vs. 1 day additionally, Eid, marking the end of the month, was not noted in the school calendar
      2. Chinese New Year has not been changed to Lunar New Year

3. Suggestion for the AHRC to create a more holistic school calendar of religious, state, federal, spiritual observances to be presented at a future school committee meeting
- b. Outreach/Events
  - i. Meeting in late May – in preparation of Juneteenth event which has since been cancelled
  - ii. Town day preparations underway – bookmarks
  - iii. Translations for the description of the HRC now available
- c. Communications
  - i. Have not met since last meeting
  - ii. Gun violence statement has been published on the website
- d. IPD
  - i. Met with groups from the Unitarian Church to organize event or work with neighboring towns to combine events
6. Foot of the Rocks (10 min)
  - a. An existing monument at the intersection of Lowell Ave. and Mass Ave.
  - b. There is a proposal to make the battle monument larger
    - i. Concerns with glorification of arms
    - ii. Concerns with the lack of indigenous and black voices
    - iii. Motion to write CPA to reconsider use of weapons of war in the monument and to encourage additional research for the purposes of inclusivity within the monument by Commissioner Pusey, seconded by Commissioner Bauer – Passed by unanimous vote
7. Housing Issues (10 min)
  - a. Volunteers needed to reactivate WG: AHRC has received several complaints regarding issues around housing in Arlington
    - i. Provide educational resources for real estate agents, property managers, and landlords
    - ii. Help to support those discriminated against in the housing market
    - iii. Reach out to state agencies to understand the path forward
    - iv. Opportunity to have AHRC members to get HUD training
8. Co-Chairs Report (10 mins)
  - a. Town Manager Meeting
    - i. Last meeting with Town Manger – last day June 17<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Juneteenth event cancelled
  - b. Meeting with Chief of Police
    - i. Fairmount St. incident discussed
    - ii. School committee member asked about gun violence in schools including ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training of employees and students

- iii. Active shooter training with FBI
  - iv. Training in Canton – securing houses of worship done by FBI, heard from police chief about hostage situation at synagogue in TX and from the Rabbi involved in the same incident
    - 1. Contact info for Houses of worship in Arlington needs updating
- c. Co-Chairs
  - i. Disability commission working on transportation concerns
  - ii. Have all commissions together at Town Day
  - iii. AHRC will be present at Farmers' market
  - iv. Rainbow commission event included 300+ participants including town leaders
  - v. Emails received
    - 1. Capitol Theater collaboration will not occur
    - 2. OMS student interested in contributing to AHRC
- d. Thank you note for Sophie S
  - i. AHRC to send a thank you for her work with the commission
- 9. Budget - FY2023 (10 mins)
  - a. Last year's budget template to be sent by Jillian
  - b. \$7500 available to commission
  - c. Spending proposals to be discussed in July
- 10. MAHRC Update (5 min)
  - a. Individual from Hingham solicited signatures to sign letter for Pembroke meeting against the disbanding of the DEI commission
  - b. Meetings suspended until September
    - i. Need volunteers for attendees
- 11. Commissioner Updates: Inspire responsibility and engagement (2 min)
  - a. Commissioners asked to continue engagement with local and global human rights situations
- 12. Town day preparations (5 mins)
  - a. AHRC will have a table at Town Day this year
  - b. Need volunteers to set-up, breakdown, and distribute materials (bookmarks and signs)
  - c. Prior town days – free raffles (i.e. gift certificates, hand made quilt), timeline of AHRC history and impact, community surveys, etc., suggested reading
- 13. Sign Selling - Farmer's market, any other ideas? (5 mins)
- 14. Announcements (2 min)
  - a. Next meeting - July 20
  - b. Incident Handling

- i. June- Commissioner Carney
- ii. July - Gary Horowitz

15. Adjournment – Motion made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bauer – motion passed unanimously

**Next meeting:** Wednesday July 20, 2022, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Rest of the Year: All Wednesdays, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21

Commission members not able to attend please email [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us) prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.